

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE  
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

5 1. A fishing reel, comprising:

a body with a circular spool receiving cavity having a peripheral sidewall, an annular spool supporting surface which defines a central opening, and at least one line feed channel through the peripheral sidewall;

10 an annular spool positioned within the spool receiving cavity and supported by the spool supporting surface, the spool having a circumferential line receiving cavity, the line receiving cavity being closed by the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity;

15 means for rotating the spool;

means for retaining the spool in the spool receiving cavity;

means for braking the rotation of the spool; and

means for attaching the body to a fishing rod.

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2. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein the means for attaching the body to a fishing rod is a female receptacle in the body which is adapted to receive a fishing rod in mating engagement.

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3. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein the means for retaining the spool in the spool receiving cavity is a pivotally mounted closure on the body which closes the spool receiving cavity.

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4. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 3, wherein the closure is annular.

5. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 3, wherein the body  
35 is made out of polymer plastic and the closure is integrally formed with a living hinge.

6. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein the means for rotating the spool is a crank on the spool.

7. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least a  
5 portion of the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity is resiliently deformable and the means for braking the rotation of the spool is by deforming the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity to engage the spool.

10 8. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 7, wherein the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity is thermally insulated.

15 9. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 8, wherein the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity is thermally insulated with polyethylene foam.

10. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein a three  
20 position spool locking lever is provided on the body, the lever being movable between a locking position, an operational position and a release position, in the locking position the lever engages the spool to prevent rotation, in the operational position the spool can rotate freely while being retained in the spool receiving cavity by the lever, in  
25 the release position the lever is spaced from the spool enabling the spool to be removed from the spool receiving cavity.

11. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein there are  
30 two line feed channels through the peripheral sidewall, a first line feed channel for left handed operation and a second line feed channel for right handed operation.

12. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 1, wherein the body  
35 is made of polymer plastic and floats in water.

13. A fishing reel, comprising:

a polymer plastic body with a circular spool receiving cavity having a peripheral sidewall, an annular spool supporting surface which defines a central opening, and at least one line feed channel through the peripheral sidewall;

a female receptacle in the body adapted to receive a fishing rod in mating engagement;

an annular closure which closes the spool receiving cavity, the closure being integrally formed with the body and connected by a living hinge;

an annular spool positioned within the spool receiving cavity and supported by the spool supporting surface, the spool having a circumferential line receiving cavity, the line receiving cavity being closed by the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity;

a crank on the spool by means of which the spool is rotated;

at least a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity being resiliently deformable, such that rotation of the spool is braked by deforming the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity to engage the spool; and

a three position spool locking lever on the body, the lever being movable between a locking position, an operational position and a release position, in the locking position the lever engages the spool to prevent rotation, in the operational position the spool can rotate freely while being retained in the spool receiving cavity by the lever, in the release position the lever is spaced from the spool enabling the spool to be removed from the spool receiving cavity.

14. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 13, wherein the peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity is thermally insulated.

15. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 14, wherein the

peripheral sidewall of the spool receiving cavity is thermally insulated with polyethylene foam.

16. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 13, wherein there  
5 are two line feed channels through the peripheral sidewall, a first line feed channel for left handed operation and a second line feed channel for right handed operation.

17. The fishing reel as defined in Claim 13, wherein the body  
10 is made of polymer plastic and floats in water.